

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/812,882

Applicant(s)

FAHRAEUS ET AL.3

Examiner

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen

Art Unit

2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 21 October 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 11-40.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other interview summary

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-40 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 15, 18, 28 and 31 are independent claims.

The present title of the invention is "Method and system for digitalizing freehand graphics with user-selected properties".

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with Michael Mutter and Catherine Voisinnet on December 16, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 10 is canceled.

Claim 6:

A base enabling the digitization of a freehand graphic, the base comprising:
a surface;

a position-coding pattern fixed to the surface and detectable by and optical sensor;

a first area of the surface; and

a second area of the surface visually distinct from the first area, wherein the second area includes a plurality of visually distinct sub-areas, and at least one of the sub-areas comprises an indication of a property for a freeform graphic.

Claim 28:

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A method for digitizing a freehand graphic, the method comprising:

receiving from an optical sensor an indicator of a position in a selection area of a position-coding pattern fixed to a surface;

determining from a plurality of visual properties a visual property mapped to the position in the selection area; and

until a new indicator of a position in the selection area of the position-coding pattern is received, applying the visual property to portions of the freehand graphic thereafter drawn by movement of the optical sensor over a drawing area of the position-coding pattern.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-9 and 11-40 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation "a position-coding pattern fixed to the surface and detectable by an optical sensor...if the position is in the first area of the surface, then interpreting the position as a point in the freehand graphic; and if the position is in the second area of the surface, the interpreting the position as a selection of a property for the freehand graphic" in combination with the other claim limitations in claims 1, 15, and 18.

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation "a position-coding pattern fixed to the surface and detectable by an optical sensor...a second area of the surface visually distinct from the first area, wherein the second area includes a plurality of visually distinct sub-areas, and at least one of the sub-areas comprises an indication of a property for a freeform graphic" in combination with the other claim limitations in claim 6.

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation “receiving from an optical sensor an indicator of a position in a selection area of a position-coding pattern fixed to a surface; determining from a plurality of visual properties a visual property mapped to the position in the selection area; and until a new indicator of a position in the selection area of the position-coding pattern is received, applying the visual property to portions of the freehand graphic thereafter drawn by movement of the optical sensor over a drawing area of the position-coding pattern” in combination with the other claim limitations in claim 28.

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation “a position-coding pattern fixed to the surface and detectable by an optical sensor...at least one of the plurality of sub-areas having a visual indicator representing specific information a user can submit to a computer system by moving a drawing device including the optical sensor over the at least one of the plurality of sub-areas” in combination with the other claim limitations in claim 31.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8365. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew C Bella can be reached on (703) 308-6829. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen
Examiner
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Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen
December 21, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew C. Bella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being more prominent than the last name "Bella".

MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600